

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /080 W

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R 111154Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1291

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET

SUBJECT: SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 0680

1. MINSTATE FONAFFS FRANCIS DENG TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 10 THAT BALL NOW IN ETHIOPIAN COURT IN TERMS OF RESTORING NORMAL ATMOSPHERE IN GOS/EPMG RELATIONS. ENG, WHO SAW TEFARI BENTE IN ADDIS SOME DAYS AGO AND WAS PRESENT WHEN ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR SAW NIMEIRI MARCH 8, REPORTED THAT ETHIOPIANS HAD SAID MOST OF THE RIGHT THINGS, INCLUDING STATEMENT THAT, IF STRAFING INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED, THEY HAD NOT BEEN PURSUANT TO ANY SPECIFIC POLICY ORDERED FROM ADDIS. AT SAME TIME, DENG EMPHASIZED THAT ONLY THE FUTURE WOULD SHOW WHETHER SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD NOT BE REPEATED.

2. DENG COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT EPMG WAS SEEKING IMPLY SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN FOREGOING AND TWO ISSUES OF INTEREST TO ADDIS, NAMELY WHAT ETHIOPIANS REGARD AS FLOW OF ARMS TO ERITREANS ACROSS SUDANESE TERRITORY AND
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THEIR EVIDENTLY REVIVED DESIRE THAT NIMEIRI PURSUE HIS MEDIATION

EFFORTS WITH THE ERITREANS. SUDANESE APPARENTLY HAVE TOLD ETHIOPIANS THAT, SINCE THEY DO NOT SANCTION ANY MOVEMENT OF ARMS FROM SUDANESE TERRITORY TO NEIGHBORING STATE, ANY SUCH MOVEMENT TO ERITREA MUST REPRESENT ILLEGAL SMUGGLING WHICH THEY LACK MEANS TO CONTROL. AS TO STATUS MEDIATION, DENG SAID GOS HAD EXPECTED SINCE LAST FALL SOME MOVEMENT FROM ETHIOPIANS (75 KHARTOUM 2796). NIMEIRI REPORTEDLY HAS NOW INDICATED TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED IN DUE COURSE RENEW HIS EFFORTS IF THERE NO QUESTION OF HIS BEING EMBARRASSED BY SOME NEW BORDER INCIDENT. DENG MADE CLEAR THAT SUDANESE WILL UNDERTAKE NO SUCH NEW INITIATIVE FOR PRESENT WHILE THEY SEE WHETHER FURTHER BORDER INCIDENTS ARE IN FACT AVOIDED.

3. COMMENT. WHILE LINKAGE BETWEEN LATEST STRAFING INCIDENTS

AND EPMG OBJECTIVES WAS NEVER MADE VERY PLAIN, DENG CLEARLY FELT THAT ETHIOPIANS HAD SOMETHING IN MIND ON BOTH COUNTS. SUDANESE APPARENTLY FINESSED ARMS ISSUE ON BASIS THAT ONLY SMUGGLING INVOLVED AND THEY LACK CAPABILITY TO SEAL OFF LENGTHY FRONTIER. RENEWED EPMG INTEREST IN SUDANESE MEDIATION, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT NIMEIRI MAY BE PREPARED RETURN TO THE CHARGE ONCE IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT ETHIOPIAN OVERFLIGHT AND STRAFING INCIDENTS ARE A THING OF THE PAST. BREWER

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